The Everly Brothers
Donald Everly, (b.1937),  Philip Everly, (b.1939)

Famous POP hit single during the 50s: ***Wake Up Little Susie***   1957

also had hits with ***Bye, Bye Love*** in 1957, ***All I Have To Do Is Dream*** in 1958, ***(‘Til) I Kissed You*** in 1959, and ***Cathy’s Clown*** in 1960.

    Isaac Donald Everly, was born in Brownie, Kentucky, and younger brother, Phillip in Chicago. The boys grew up in Iowa, and at ages 8 and 6 began to perform on their parents’ live radio shows. Their dad encouraged them to sing and taught them to play guitar. By 1950, the radio show had become known as ‘The Everly Family Show.’ The Everly Brothers compelling melodies mixed early rock ‘n’ roll elements with country and pop music and a close two-part harmony. The duo enjoyed support from guitarist Chet Atkins and producer Archie Bleyer.
     The Everly Brothers discovered a hit formula with *Bye Bye Love*: Boudleaux Bryant’s rhythms, Felice Bryant’s lyrics, Don’s guitar introductions, and Phil’s harmony. Their next hit, *Wake Up Little Susie*, again written by husband and wife songwriters, Boudleaux and Felice Bryant, became their second million seller. *Bye Bye Love* began a string of 26 top-forty singles for The Everly Brothers whose worldwide record sales topped 40 million.

American [country](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Country_music)-influenced [rock and roll](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_and_roll) singers, known for [steel-string guitar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steel-string_guitar) playing and [close harmony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Close_harmony) singing. The duo was elected to the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_and_Roll_Hall_of_Fame) in 1986.

The duo's harmony singing had a strong influence on rock groups of the 1960s. [The Beatles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beatles), [The Beach Boys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beach_Boys) and [Simon & Garfunkel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon_%26_Garfunkel) developed their early singing styles by performing Everly covers, as well as covers of [The Hollies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hollies).

**Early career[[edit source](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Everly_Brothers&action=edit&section=3&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Early career) |** [**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Everly_Brothers&veaction=edit&section=3&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro)**]**

Don was born in [Brownie, Muhlenberg County, Kentucky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brownie%2C_Muhlenberg_County%2C_Kentucky), and Phil two years later in [Chicago, Illinois](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago%2C_Illinois). Their father, Ike Everly, was a musician. Ike, with [Merle Travis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merle_Travis), [Mose Rager](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mose_Rager), and [Kennedy Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kennedy_Jones_%28musician%29), was honored by the construction of [*The Four Legends Fountain*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drakesboro%2C_Kentucky#Site_of_interest) in [Drakesboro, Kentucky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drakesboro%2C_Kentucky). Ike Everly had a show on [KMA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KMA_%28AM%29) and KFNF in [Shenandoah, Iowa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shenandoah%2C_Iowa), in the 1940s, with his wife Margaret and two young sons. Singing on the show gave the brothers their first exposure to the music industry. The family sang together and lived and traveled in the area singing as the Everly Family. The Everly Brothers grew up from ages 5 and 7 through early high school in Shenandoah. They are the cousins of actor [James Best](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Best). The Everly family moved to [Knoxville, Tennessee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knoxville%2C_Tennessee) and the brothers attended Knox West High School, continuing their musical development and first catching the attention of [Chet Atkins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chet_Atkins).

As the brothers transitioned out of the family act and into a duo, family friend [Chet Atkins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chet_Atkins) became an early champion of the Everly Brothers. Despite his affiliation with RCA Records, it was Atkins who engineered a chance for the Everly Brothers to record for [Columbia Records](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_Records) in early 1956. However, their first and only single for the label, "Keep A' Lovin' Me," was a flop, and they were quickly dropped from Columbia.

Atkins still encouraged the Everly Brothers to continue, and introduced them to Wesley Rose of [Acuff-Rose](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acuff-Rose) music publishers. Impressed with the duo's songwriting talents, Rose told them that if they signed to Acuff-Rose as songwriters, he would also get them a recording deal. The duo signed to Acuff-Rose in late 1956, and by early 1957 Rose had introduced them to [Archie Bleyer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archie_Bleyer), who was looking for artists for his [Cadence Records](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cadence_Records) label. The Everlys signed to Cadence, and entered the recording studio for their first Cadence session in February 1957.

Their first Cadence single, "[Bye Bye Love](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bye_Bye_Love_%28The_Everly_Brothers_song%29)," had been rejected by 30 other acts (including [Elvis Presley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvis_Presley))[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed%22%20%5Co%20%22Wikipedia%3ACitation%20needed)*], but the Everlys saw potential in the song. Their recording of "Bye Bye Love" reached No. 2 on the [pop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_music) charts behind Presley's ["Let Me Be Your Teddy Bear"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teddy_Bear_%28song%29), hitting No. 1 on the Country and No. 5 on the [R&B](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%26B) charts. The song, written by the husband and wife [Felice and Boudleaux Bryant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felice_and_Boudleaux_Bryant),[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Everly_Brothers%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-pc9-5) became the Everly Brothers' first million-seller.

They became stalwarts of the Cadence label. Working with the Bryants, the duo had hits in the United States and the United Kingdom, the biggest being "[Wake Up Little Susie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wake_Up_Little_Susie)," "[All I Have to Do Is Dream](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_I_Have_to_Do_Is_Dream)," "[Bird Dog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird_Dog_%28song%29)" and "Problems," all penned by the Bryants. The Everlys also found success as songwriters, especially with Don's "[(Till) I Kissed You](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%28Till%29_I_Kissed_You)," which hit No. 4 on the US pop charts.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Everly_Brothers#cite_note-6)

The brothers toured extensively with [Buddy Holly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddy_Holly) during 1957 and 1958. According to Holly biographer Philip Norman, they were responsible for the change in style for Holly and [The Crickets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Crickets) from [Levi's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levi_Strauss_%26_Co.) and [T-shirts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T-shirt) to the Everlys' sharp [Ivy League](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivy_League) suits. Don claimed Holly to be a generous songwriter who wrote the song "Wishing" for them, while Phil later stated: "We were all from the South. We'd started in country music."[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Everly_Brothers#cite_note-Philip_Norman_1996-7)

Phil Everly was one of [Buddy Holly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddy_Holly)'s pallbearers at his funeral in February 1959, although Don did not attend. He later said, "I couldn't go to the funeral. I couldn't go anywhere. I just took to my bed."

Their enlistment in the [United States Marine Corps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Marine_Corps) Reserves in November 1961 (so as to not be drafted into the regular Army) also took them out of the spotlight for six months of training and active duty; one of their few performances during their Marines stint was an on-leave appearance on [*The Ed Sullivan Show*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ed_Sullivan_Show)*,* performing "Jezebel" and "Crying In The Rain."

By 1964, the brothers' personal lives had gone through serious upheavals. Both were addicted to [speed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphetamine) for a while. Don's condition was made worse because he was taking the then unregulated drug [Ritalin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methylphenidate) which led to deeper trouble. Don's addiction lasted three years and eventually he was hospitalized for a nervous breakdown and help for his addiction to Ritalin. It was during this troubled time the duo embarked on a UK tour. Don was unable to complete the tour and returned to the US leaving Phil to carry on with their bass player, Joey Page, taking the place of Don.

Their stardom had begun to wane two years before the [British Invasion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Invasion) in 1964—although their appeal remained strong in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and elsewhere.

By 1965, the duo took a back seat to the new sound of the beat boom—including bands like [the Beatles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beatles), whom the Everlys had in fact greatly influenced. But if their fortunes in t he States were fading, the Everlys remained a successful act in the UK and Canada throughout most of the 1960s, reaching the top 40 in the United Kingdom with singles through 1968, and the top 10 in Canada as late as 1967. The 1966 album [*Two Yanks in England*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_Yanks_in_England) was a reflection of the Everlys' popularity in the U.K.; the album was recorded in England with backup by major UK chart act [The Hollies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hollies), who also wrote many of the album's songs.

Towards the end of the 1960s, the Everly Brothers returned to an emphasis on their country-rock roots, and their 1968 album [*Roots*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roots_%28The_Everly_Brothers_album%29) is touted by some critics as "one of the finest early country-rock albums."[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Everly_Brothers#cite_note-10) However, by the end of the 1960s, the Everly Brothers were no longer hitmakers in either North America or the United Kingdom, and in 1970 their contract with Warner Bros. lapsed after ten years. In 1970, they were the summer replacement hosts for [Johnny Cash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnny_Cash)'s television show. In 1970, Don Everly released his first solo album, but it was not a success. The Everly Brothers resumed performing in 1971, and signed a contract with [RCA Victor Records](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RCA_Victor_Records), for whom they issued two albums in 1972 and 1973. The duo broke up shortly thereafter, amidst much acrimony. They reportedly did not speak to each other for the better part of a decade, except at their father's funeral.

The brothers got back together in 1983. Their reunion concert at the [Royal Albert Hall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Albert_Hall) in [London](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London) on September 23, 1983, was instigated by English guitarist Albert Lee (who was also the concert's musical director). This concert spawned a well-received live LP and video. The brothers then returned to the studio as a duo for the first time in over a decade, resulting in the album *EB '84,* produced by [Dave Edmunds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Edmunds). Lead single "On the Wings of a Nightingale," written by [Paul McCartney](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_McCartney), was a minor success and returned them to the US and UK charts.

Even though the brothers have not produced studio albums since 1989's *Some Hearts,* they tour and perform.

In 2006, Phil Everly sang a duet, "Sweet Little Corrina," with country singer [Vince Gill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vince_Gill) on his album [*These Days*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/These_Days_%28Vince_Gill_album%29)*.*

In 1997 the brothers were awarded the [Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammy_Lifetime_Achievement_Award). In addition, they were inducted into the [Country Music Hall of Fame](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Country_Music_Hall_of_Fame) in 2001 and the [Vocal Group Hall of Fame](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vocal_Group_Hall_of_Fame) in 2004.[ Their pioneering contribution to the genre has been recognized by the [Rockabilly Hall of Fame](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockabilly_Hall_of_Fame). The Everly Brothers have a star on the [Hollywood Walk of Fame](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollywood_Walk_of_Fame) at 7000 Hollywood Blvd. In 2004, [Rolling Stone Magazine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolling_Stone_Magazine) ranked The Everly Brothers[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Everly_Brothers%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-15)[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Everly_Brothers#cite_note-16) No. 33 on their list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Times.[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Everly_Brothers#cite_note-17)[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Everly_Brothers#cite_note-18) They are also No. 43 on the list of [UK Best selling singles artists of all time](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UK_Best_selling_singles_artists_of_all_time).

[Paul McCartney](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_McCartney) paid tribute by mentioning "Phil and Don" in his 1976 million-seller, "[Let 'Em In](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Let_%27Em_In)."

Don Everly's daughter, [Erin Everly](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Erin_Everly&action=edit&redlink=1), was briefly married to the front man of [Guns N' Roses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guns_N%27_Roses), [Axl Rose](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axl_Rose).

[Red Hot Chili Peppers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Hot_Chili_Peppers) frontman [Anthony Kiedis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Kiedis) named his son Everly after the members of the band.